Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information For Immediate Release September 26, 2002 Contacts: Virginia Gibbons (541) 416-6647

Prescribed Burns Scheduled Near Dayville

DAYVILLE-Several prescribed burns managed by the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management are scheduled to begin starting Thursday, September 26th in the general vicinity of Dayville, OR. Firefighters will make an effort to cease the burning temporarily on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29 due to hunting season and associated patrols.

"We are attempting to minimize our impacts to wildlife and hunters, but we also have a limited window in which to accomplish the work," said Central Oregon Resource Area Field Manager Dan Tippy.

Johnson Creek Burn (1,200 acres/2-3 days to complete). The burn area is approximately 15 miles NW of Dayville and one mile west of Highway 19.

Battle Creek Burn (700 acres/1-2 days to complete). The burn area is four miles W of Dayville and one mile S of Highway 26.

Herb Asher Burn (150 acres/1 day to complete). The burn area is 13 miles NW of Dayville and adjacent to Highway 19.

The primary objective for these prescribed burns is to promote the growth of native grasses that deer and elk feed upon. A secondary objective is to eliminate some of the heavier fuels in the area, including sage and juniper. These heavier fuels are competing with the grasses and they also create a fire hazard to nearby homes.

Fire managers are expecting upslope winds during the proposed burning times, which may help minimize smoke along the roadways. If smoke hampers visibility for motorists, signs and/or flaggers will assist with traffic flow for public safety purposes. Weather permitting, the burns will take from 1-3 weeks to complete.